

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 11, 2005. In that Office Action, claim 23 was indicated as allowed, and claims 13-22 stand as rejected. With this amendment, claims 13, 14, 17 and 20 are hereby amended and claim 18 is cancelled. The application now includes claims 13-17 and 19-23.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,943,623 (Thompson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,188,124 (Feret).

With regard to claim 13, Thompson was alleged to show a friction management method. As illustrated and described in Thompson, a plaster includes a strip 22 of tetrafluoroethylene on a top surface thereof. The strip of tetrafluoroethylene extends only along a portion of the top surface of the plaster.

The Feret patent was combined with the Thompson patent since it was alleged that Thompson was silent as to the type of adhesive used in the plaster and that Feret discloses an adhesive plaster constructed from a low friction material and a pressure sensitive adhesive. However, the coefficient of friction disclosed in the Feret patent is for a co-polyether elastomer sold under the trade name HYTREL which was found to have a coefficient of friction of less than about 0.6 (column 2, lines 36-42). The coefficient of friction of polytetrafluoroethylene is significantly lower, as evidenced by Exhibit A, the coefficient of friction being between 0.05 to 0.2. Claim 13 has been amended to specifically state the low friction material extends throughout the exposed surface and that such exposed surface has a coefficient friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene.

It is believed that amended claim 13 defines a friction management method that is neither taught nor suggested by the Thompson patent. Therefore, the combination of Thompson and Feret neither teaches nor suggests the invention as claimed in amended independent claim 13 and its respective dependent claims.

With regard to independent claim 17, the Office Action alleged that Thompson substantially disclosed all of the features of claim 17 including the step of providing an individual low friction surface patch comprised of polytetrafluoroethylene and having a

peripheral edge defining the patch and supporting the tissue by adhesively securing the patch to one of the tissue or the object. Feret is combined with Thompson since it is alleged that Feret discloses an adhesive plaster constructed from a low friction material and pressure sensitive adhesive. However, as claim 17 has been amended, the combination of the Thompson and the Feret patent neither teaches nor suggests the method described in claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended to state that the low friction surface patch has a low friction surface extending continuously within the peripheral edge and wherein the low friction surface has a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene.

As stated previously, with regard to claim 13, the plaster described in Thompson has a patch of polytetrafluoroethylene on a portion of its surface, and therefore, neither teaches nor suggests a low friction surface extending continuously within the peripheral edge thereof. In addition, claim 17 has been amended to state that the low friction surface has a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene. As evidence by Exhibit A attached hereto, the coefficient of friction of polytetrafluoroethylene is somewhere between .05 and 0.2. The coefficient of friction disclosed in Feret is substantially higher and is for an entirely different polymer.

In view of the above, it is believe that both independent claims 13 and 17 along with their respective dependent claims are now in allowable form. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 13-17, 19-22 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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